

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1353
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
LUNG CANCER
V. VETRISSELVAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of lung cancer are on the rise in India as compared to other developing countries;
- (b) if so, whether Indian doctors are not able to diagnose the disease at the early stage;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have formulated any plan to create awareness among the people about this disease;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the technique proposed to be adopted so that doctors can diagnose the disease at the early stage?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e): According to data maintained by Population Based Cancer Registry of India Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there is a slight upward trend in the incidence of lung cancer in the country. Lung cancer is often detected in late stages and the efforts for screening of lung cancer have not shown satisfactory results. Detection of lung cancer is done through various methods like X-ray chest, bronchoscopy etc. for which facilities exist under the general health care delivery system.

The main cause of lung cancer is smoking of tobacco in various forms which can be avoided by creating mass awareness. In order to create awareness on the ill effects of smoking, various strategies are adopted through the mass media campaign. A Legislation has also been passed by Parliament recently to discourage the consumption of tobacco.